



May 3, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

If it were my responsibility to hire a person to run the administrative aspects of any complex endeavor, setting up an office or offices to accomplish this effectively and efficiently so as to set up sustainable systems, I would certainly turn to Merle Brenner.

I have known her well-nigh during my entire service over a quarter of a century as Senior Rabbi of a large Reform synagogue (North Shore Congregation Israel, Glencoe, Illinois); first as an outstanding student, then as an avid young woman of superior reliability in every respect, who engaging in any project, saw it through with notable excellence and follow-up afterwards; a person of many interests and enthusiasms mixed with very good practical sense. She and her husband are very good people in both the moral sense and in the sense of selfless service to any good cause going out of their way in terms of the expenditure of means, energy, talent and time.

My most recent experience of a very personal kind was her drive and energy in organizing the Archives of our historic congregation on a professionally excellent basis that would be the envy of the finest of Houses of Worship of any religious denomination. In this, she worked in tandem with a notable national institution, The American Jewish Archives the staff of which admires her greatly. Her biggest difficulty in this project was, arguably, my files and papers! She had to get me going and helping me in organizing almost half a century of papers and communications, my writings and program work as well as community involvements, working on this at the same time with the American Jewish Archives and the Archives of my prior congregation, also large and historic, in Rochester New York.

In addition she gathered relevant photographs and memorabilia from all kinds of people for our half-century celebration in 2008 and created a filmed set of interviews with key persons to document our experience and history. In doing this she again demonstrated remarkable technological aptitudes. But the main aspect of all of this is that she accomplished this and more with dogged determination but with personal grace, without offense in her persistence and with personal good grace, patient with the foibles of persons like me who had to be cajoled and, sometimes reminded and pushed!

I recommend her for any such range of tasks without reservation.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Herbert Bronstein

- RABBI STEVEN S. MASON, D.Min.
- RABBI LISA S. GREENE
- RABBI WENDI GEFFEN
- CANTOR DAVID M. GOLDSTEIN
- RABBI HERBERT BRONSTEIN
Senior Scholar
- SERANE BLATT, FTA
Executive Director
- RABBI JUDITH SPICEHANDLER
Educational Director
- ELLEN GROSSMAN
Preschool Director
- JUDITH G. WEISS
Assistant Educational Director
- JACKI SUNDHEIM
Events Coordinator
- NEIL RIGLER
Youth Advisor
- ANDREA DALINKA
Youth Advisor
- OFFICERS**
- JUDITH M. WEXLER
President
- SCOTT H. GENDALL
Vice President
- SCOTT J. GREENE, M.D.
Vice President
- MIRANDA K. MANDEL
Vice President
- ANN WEISBERG
Vice President
- BRUCE WHITE
Vice President
- RONALD S. SONENTHAL
Treasurer
- SUSAN C. LONGO
Secretary
- JODY WEINBERG
Religious Education Board Chair
- AMY DUQUE
PEGGY RUBENSTEIN
Sisterhood Co-Presidents
- PETER DUBOIS
JED MANDEL
Brotherhood Co-Presidents
- BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
- Debra Bauer
- Richard J. Courtheoux
- Robert Dillon
- Steven M. Dresner
- Peter DuBois
- Juan Carlos Duque
- Jay Fine
- Lee Freedman, M.D.
- Robert Goldstein
- Laurence Hymen
- Amy R. Kaufman
- Stuart Kohn
- Richard Kotz
- Richard H. Kruger
- Mark Litner
- Diane W. Moore
- Madeleine Plonsker
- Norman Pressman
- Michael Rosenthal
- David Rothschild
- Mindy Trossman Rubin
- Michelle Scheinkopf
- Onnie Scheyer
- Sheldon Silverman
- Steven Tick
- Beth Tross
- Greg Weissman
- Laura White
- HONORARY TRUSTEE**
- Jane R. Perlman
- PAST PRESIDENTS**
- Alan J. Altheimer z'l - 1955-1961
- Jerome H. Stone - 1961-1965
- Jules Dashow z'l - 1965-1967
- Norman Korff z'l - 1967-1971
- Daniel J. Haskell z'l - 1971-1975
- Dr. Robert L. Hess z'l - 1975-1979
- Edward S. Ex - 1979-1983
- Daniel S. Schechter - 1983-1985
- John C. Colman - 1985-1987
- Seymour Nordenberg - 1987-1991
- Judith D. Geleerd - 1991-1995
- David A. Grossberg - 1995-1997
- Eugene Jacobs - 1997-1999
- Lorelei Rosenthal - 1999-2003
- Barbara L. Borden, Ed.D. - 2003-2005
- Robert M. Olian - 2005-2009